

Application No. 09/385,299

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of accessing an information system using a portable access device, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a communication protocol associated with a first network server;

attempting, by ~~a~~ the portable access device, to establish a communication link between the portable access device and ~~said the~~ the first network server using ~~one of a plurality of~~ one of a plurality of communication media, ~~in accordance with said communication protocol~~ medium that is selected by the portable access device based on the communication protocol and a location of the portable access device with respect to the first network server, wherein ~~said one of a plurality of the~~ one of a plurality of the communication media medium is selected from the group consisting of: a local wireless LAN, a remote wireless LAN, a wireline LAN, and a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN); and

capturing data received by the portable access device in a memory located in the portable access device ~~location~~ in accordance with a failed attempt to establish ~~said the~~ the communication link.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of identifying a communication protocol associated with said network server further comprises the following steps:

searching an internal database for a communication protocol associated with the first

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network server; and

retrieving said communication protocol from the internal database.

3. (Currently amended) A The method of claim 1 accessing an information system using a portable access device, the method comprising:

identifying, by the portable access device, a communication protocol associated with a first network server, wherein said step of the identifying a communication protocol associated with said network server further comprises the following steps:

searching an internal database for a the communication protocol associated with a first network server;

transmitting from a the portable access device to a second network server, a request to access said the first network server when said the communication protocol cannot be found in said the internal database; and

retrieving a the communication protocol associated with said first network server from said the second network server;

attempting, by the portable access device, to establish a communication link

between the portable access device and the first network server using one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with the communication protocol, wherein the one of a plurality of communication media is selected from the group consisting of: a local wireless LAN, a

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remote wireless LAN, a wireline LAN, and a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN); and

capturing data in a memory location in accordance with a failed attempt to establish the communication link.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein ~~said step of~~ transmitting a request from a the portable access device to a the second network server ~~is further comprised of the following steps comprises:~~

transmitting a signal from a the portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

transmitting a second signal from ~~said~~ the portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with ~~said~~ the local wireless LAN transceiver; and

connecting ~~said~~ the portable access device to a public switched telephone network (PSTN) when a communication link cannot be established with ~~said~~ the remote wireless transceiver.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of attempting to establish a communication link with said first network server is further comprised of the following steps:

configuring said portable access device to transmit using one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol;

verifying the availability of said communication medium; and

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initiating communication between said portable access device and said network server along said communication medium.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 ~~1~~ wherein ~~said step of verifying the availability of a communication medium is further comprised of the following steps attempting to establish a communication link server comprises:~~

transmitting a signal from said portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

transmitting a second signal from said portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and

requesting a connection connecting to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

7. (Currently amended) A method of accessing an information system using a portable access device, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from a said portable access device to access a network server;

identifying a communication protocol associated with said network server;

transmitting said communication protocol to said portable access device; and

establishing a communication link between said portable access device and said network server using ~~one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol~~ medium that is selected based on said communication protocol and a location of said portable access device with respect to said network server, wherein said ~~one of a plurality of~~

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communication ~~media~~ medium is selected from the group consisting of: local wireless LAN, remote wireless LAN, wireline LAN, and Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of configuring said portable access device to capture data in memory in accordance with a failed attempt to establish said communication link.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said step of identifying a communication protocol associated with said network device further comprises the following steps:

accessing a central database;

searching said central database for a communication protocol associated with said network server; and

retrieving said communication protocol.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said step of establishing communication between said portable access device and said network server is further comprised of the following steps:

configuring said portable access device to transmit using one of a plurality of communication media in accordance with said communication protocol;

verifying the availability of said communication medium; and

initiating communication between said portable access device and said network server using one of said communication media.

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11. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~10~~ 7 wherein ~~said step of verifying the availability of a communication medium is further comprised of the following steps~~
establishing a communication link comprises:

transmitting a signal to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

transmitting a second signal to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and

connecting to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

12. (Currently amended) A method of accessing an information system using a portable access device, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

transmitting from a said portable access device to a first network server, a request to access a second network server;

receiving said request at said first network server;

identifying a communication protocol associated with said second network server;

transmitting said communication protocol from said first network server to said portable access device; and

establishing a communication link between said portable access device and said second network server using one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol medium that is selected based on said communication protocol and a location of said portable access device with respect to said second network server, wherein said one of a plurality of communication media medium is selected from the group consisting of:

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local wireless LAN, remote wireless LAN, wireline LAN, and Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising the step of configuring said portable access device to capture data in memory in accordance with a failed attempt to establish said communication link.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said step of transmitting from a portable access device to a first network server is further comprised of the following steps:

- transmitting a signal from a portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;
- transmitting a second signal from said portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and
- connecting said portable access device to a public switched telephone network (PSTN) when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 wherein ~~said step of identifying a communication protocol associated with said first network server~~ further comprises the following steps:

- accessing a central database; and
- retrieving a communication protocol that corresponds to said first second network server.

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16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 wherein ~~said step of establishing a communication link between said portable access device and said first network server is further comprised of the following steps~~ comprises:

configuring said portable access device to transmit using one of a plurality of communication media in accordance with said communication protocol;

verifying the availability of a communication medium; and

initiating communication between said portable access device and said second network server along said communication medium.

17. (Original) The method of claim ~~16~~ 12 wherein ~~said step of verifying the availability of a communication medium is further comprised of the following steps~~ establishing a communication link comprises:

transmitting a signal to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

transmitting a second signal to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and

connecting to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

18-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for accessing an information system comprising ~~an~~ a portable access device and a plurality of network servers, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

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identifying a communication protocol associated with a first network server;

attempting, by a the portable access device, to establish a communication link between the portable access device and ~~said the~~ first network server using one of a plurality of communication media, ~~in accordance with said communication protocol~~ medium that is selected by the portable access device based on the communication protocol and a location of the portable access device with respect to the first network server, wherein ~~said one of a plurality of the~~ communication media medium is selected from the group consisting of: a local wireless LAN, a remote wireless LAN, a wireline LAN, and a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN); and capturing data received by the portable access device in a memory located in the portable access device ~~location~~ in accordance with a failed attempt to establish ~~said the~~ communication link.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 30 wherein said step of identifying a communication protocol associated with said network server further comprises the following steps:

searching an internal database for a communication protocol associated with the first network server; and

retrieving said communication protocol from the internal database.

32. (Currently amended) A The computer-readable medium of claim 30 containing instructions for accessing an information system comprising a portable access device and a plurality of network servers, the method comprising:

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identifving, by the portable access device, a communication protocol associated

with a first network server, wherein said step of identifying a

communication protocol associated with a first network server further

comprises the following steps:

searching an internal database for a the communication protocol

associated with a first network server;

transmitting from a the portable access device to a second network

server, a request to access said first network server when

said communication protocol cannot be found in said

internal database; and

retrieving a the communication protocol corresponding to said first

network server from said second network server;

attempting, by the portable access device, to establish a communication link

between the portable access device and the first network server using one

of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with the

communication protocol, wherein the one of a plurality of communication

media is selected from the group consisting of: a local wireless LAN, a

remote wireless LAN, a wireline LAN, and a Public Switched Telephone

Network (PSTN); and

capturing data in a memory location in accordance with a failed attempt to

establish the communication link.

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33. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 32 wherein ~~said step of transmitting a request from a~~ the portable access device to a ~~the second network server is further comprised of the following steps comprises:~~

transmitting a signal from a the portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

transmitting a second signal from ~~said~~ the portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with ~~said~~ the local wireless LAN transceiver; and

connecting ~~said~~ the portable access device to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with ~~said~~ the remote wireless transceiver.

34. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 30 wherein said step of attempting to establish a communication link with said first network server is further comprised of the following steps:

configuring said portable access device to transmit using one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol;

verifying the availability of said communication medium; and

initiating communication between said portable access device and said first network server along said communication medium.

35. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~34~~ 30 wherein ~~said step of verifying the availability of a communication medium is further comprised of the following steps~~ attempting to establish a communication link comprises:

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transmitting a signal from said portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

transmitting a second signal from said portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and

requesting a connection ~~connecting~~ to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

36. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for accessing an information system comprising an access device and a plurality of network servers, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

receiving a request from a portable access device to access a network server;

identifying a communication protocol associated with said network server;

transmitting said communication protocol to said portable access device; and

establishing a communication link between said portable access device and said network server using ~~one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol~~ medium that is selected based on said communication protocol and a location of said portable access device with respect to said network server, wherein said ~~one of a plurality of communication media~~ medium is selected from the group consisting of: local wireless LAN, remote wireless LAN, wireline LAN, and Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

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37. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 further comprising the step of configuring said portable access device to capture data in memory in accordance with a failed attempt to establish said communication link.

38. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein said step of identifying a communication protocol associated with said network device further comprises the following steps:

accessing a central database;

searching said central database for a communication protocol associated with said network server; and

retrieving said communication protocol.

39. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 36 wherein said step of establishing communication between said portable access device and said network server is further comprised of the following steps:

configuring said portable access device to transmit using one of a plurality of communication media in accordance with said communication protocol;

verifying the availability of said communication medium; and

initiating communication between said portable access device and said network server using one of said communication media.

40. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~39~~ 36 wherein ~~said step of verifying the availability of a communication medium is further comprised of the~~

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following steps establishing communication comprises:

transmitting a signal to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

transmitting a second signal to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and

connecting to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

41. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for accessing an information system comprising an access device and a plurality of network servers, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting from a portable access device to a first network server, a request to access a second network server;

receiving said request at said first network server;

identifying a communication protocol associated with said second network server;

transmitting said communication protocol to said portable access device; and

establishing a communication link between said portable access device and said second network server using ~~one of a plurality of communication media, in accordance with said communication protocol~~ medium that is selected based on said communication protocol and a location of the portable access device with respect to said second network server.

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42. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 41 further comprising the step of configuring said portable access device to capture data in memory in accordance with a failed attempt to establish said communication link.

43. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 41 wherein said step of transmitting from a portable access device to a first network server is further comprised of the following steps:

transmitting a signal from a portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

transmitting a second signal from said portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and

connecting said portable access device to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

44. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 41 wherein said ~~step of identifying a communication protocol associated with said first network server~~ further comprises the following steps:

accessing a central database; and

retrieving a communication protocol that corresponds to said ~~first~~ second network server.

45. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 41 wherein said ~~step of establishing a communication link between said portable access device and said first network server is further comprised of the following steps~~ comprises:

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configuring said portable access device to transmit using one of a plurality of communication media in accordance with said communication protocol;
verifying the availability of a communication medium; and
initiating communication between said portable access device and said second network server along said communication medium.

46. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 45 ~~41~~ wherein ~~said step of verifying the availability of a communication medium is further comprised of the following steps~~ establishing a communication link comprises:

transmitting a signal to a local wireless LAN transceiver;
transmitting a second signal to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with said local wireless LAN transceiver; and
connecting to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with said remote wireless transceiver.

47. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying comprises:
searching an internal database of the portable access device for the communication protocol associated with the first network server;
transmitting from the portable access device to a second network server, a request to access the first network server when the communication protocol cannot be found in the internal database; and
retrieving the communication protocol server from the second network server.

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48. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein transmitting a request from the portable access device to the second network server comprises:

transmitting a signal from the portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

transmitting a second signal from the portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with the local wireless LAN transceiver; and

connecting the portable access device to a public switched telephone network (PSTN) when a communication link cannot be established with the remote wireless transceiver.

49. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 30 wherein identifying a communication protocol further comprises:

searching an internal database of the portable access device for the communication protocol;

transmitting from the portable access device to a second network server, a request to access the first network server when the communication protocol cannot be found in the internal database; and

retrieving the communication protocol from the second network server.

50. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 49 wherein transmitting a request from a portable access device to the second network server comprises:

transmitting a signal from the portable access device to a local wireless LAN transceiver;

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transmitting a second signal from the portable access device to a remote wireless transceiver when a communication link cannot be established with the local wireless LAN transceiver; and

connecting the portable access device to a PSTN when a communication link cannot be established with the remote wireless transceiver.

51. (New) A method of accessing information using an access device, the method comprising:

identifying, by the access device, a communication protocol associated with a first server; attempting, by the access device, to establish a communication link between the access device and the first server, in accordance with the communication protocol, wherein the attempting includes initiating a first attempt to establish communication with the first server via a local wireless network, initiating a second attempt to establish communication via a remote wireless network if the first attempt fails, and initiating a third attempt to establish communication via a public switched telephone network if the second attempt fails; and accessing the information from the first server when the communication link is established.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein identifying a communication protocol comprises:

determining, by the access device, whether or not the communication protocol is stored locally by the access device; and

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establishing communication with a second server to retrieve the communication protocol, if the communication protocol is not stored locally.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein establishing communication with the second server comprises:

initiating a first attempt to establish communication via a local wireless network, initiating a second attempt to establish communication via a remote wireless network if the first attempt fails, and initiating a third attempt to establish communication via a public switched telephone network if the second attempt fails.

54. The method of claim 51, further comprising:

configuring the access device to operate in a local capture mode such that data received by the access device is stored in a memory located in the access device, if the third attempt fails.